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1 October 1965

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The Honorable Alexander Flax  
Director, National Reconnaissance Office  
Department of Defense  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Al:

The conclusion of a new NRO Agreement has caused us to examine the CIA organizational structure involved so as to assure ourselves that it will adequately support your office and its program. After careful study, we have decided to consolidate all of our satellite activities in the Office of Special Projects under Mr. John Crowley, and they will be responsible for CIA participation in COMCONA, [redacted] and other projects as required. Manned reconnaissance aircraft development and operations will be the responsibility of the Office of Special Activities under Brigadier General Jack Ledford, which will manage the U-2 and ORCART programs. The development of airborne electronic equipment is accomplished in the Office of ELINT under Mr. George Miller, but is responsive to the needs and program management of COMA. All of these offices report to the DD/NSA, who is Mr. Albert D. Wheeler.

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NRO review(s) completed.

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All of this activity will come to a management level in the person of a Director of CIA Reconnaissance Programs, who will report to the DD/S&T. Admiral Raborn and I will count on this individual to keep us informed on the R&P as appropriate. This will provide you with a single authoritative point of contact within the CIA for all our programs. It will replace the present concept of a Program B manager and relieve General Lodford of the responsibility for programs over which he has no real authority. In the future we will expect General Lodford to serve only in a line capacity as part of the CIA organization, in place of his present dual responsibility which has proved difficult to him and us. It is our desire that the CIA program within the R&P be so identified and that the Program B designation of our activities be discontinued. I have designated  to serve in the capacity as Director of CIA Reconnaissance Programs on a full-time basis, and all correspondence or requests bearing on CIA participation in the NRO should be addressed to him. We would hope that working level contact with the NRO Staff and Messrs. Crowley,  Miller, and  would continue as before.

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I believe that the implementation of these management steps will considerably enhance the ability of CIA to support the new NRO Agreement more effectively--a objective to which we are all pledged.

Sincerely,

/s/ Richard Helms

Richard Helms  
Deputy Director
 cc: Mr. Vance  
 Admiral Raborn  
 Mr. Wheeler  
 Mr. FitzGerald  


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DD/S&amp;T/ADWheeler:ef(30 Sept. 1965)

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